

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A block data storage device, comprising a host interface circuit which maintains a history of a sequence of previously received read commands with associated ~~non-sequential~~ data sector ranges for a data storage medium, wherein the data sector range of each consecutive read command is non-sequential with respect to the data sector range of the previous read command in said sequence, and wherein the interface circuit switches from a ~~nonlocal~~ first mode of operation, in which non-requested data are not retrieved from the medium, to a ~~local~~ second mode of operation, in which non-requested data are retrieved from the medium, when a data sector address of a most recently received read command corresponds to at least one of said non-sequential data sector ranges.

2. (currently amended) The block data storage device of claim 1, wherein the interface circuit further operates to switch from the ~~local~~ second mode of operation to the ~~nonlocal~~ first mode of operation after a plurality of consecutively received read commands are found to not correspond to said non-sequential data sector ranges.

3. (currently amended) The block data storage device of claim 1, wherein the interface circuit switches from the ~~nonlocal~~ first mode to the ~~local~~ second mode of

operation when a data sector address associated with the most recently received read command falls within one of the data sector ranges of said history.

4. (previously presented) The block data storage device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the previously received read commands in said history comprises a queued read command that has not yet been executed.

5. (previously presented) The block data storage device of claim 1, wherein the interface circuit further updates the history with the most recently received read command and removes the oldest previously received read command from said history when a data sector address of the most recently received read command is found to not correspond to at least one of said non-sequential data sector ranges.

6. (previously presented) The block data storage device of claim 1, wherein the interface circuit further updates the history with the most recently received read command when a data sector address of the most recently received read command is found to correspond to at least one of said non-sequential data sector ranges, wherein the most recently received read command is substituted within the history for the associated previously received read command with the corresponding non-sequential data sector range.

7. (currently amended) The block data storage device of claim 1, wherein the recordable medium comprises a recording disc on which a plurality of concentric tracks are

defined, and wherein during the ~~local~~ second mode the interface circuit employs a read look ahead (RLA) technique so that, during a latency period between execution of consecutive first and second read commands, the interface circuit causes the data transducing head to remain on a first track having a data sector associated with the first read command so that the nonrequested data are retrieved from at least one other data sector on the first track.

8. (currently amended) The block data storage device of claim 1, wherein the recordable medium comprises a recording disc on which a plurality of concentric tracks are defined, and wherein during the ~~local~~ second mode the interface circuit employs a read on arrival (ROA) technique so that, during a latency period between execution of consecutive first and second read commands, the interface circuit causes the data transducing head to move to a second track having a data sector associated with the second read command so that the nonrequested data are retrieved from at least one other data sector on the second track.

9. (currently amended) A block data storage, comprising:

a medium configured to store user data in a number of data sectors having

associated data sector addresses; and

means for switching from a ~~non-local~~ first mode of operation to a ~~local~~ second mode

of operation in relation to a detected access pattern in ~~non-sequential~~ a

sequence of data read commands issued by a host, wherein each data

command has an associated data sector address range and the data sector

range of each consecutive read command is non-sequential with respect to the data sector range of the previous read command

each said range is non-sequential with respect to the remaining ranges, and wherein during the ~~local~~ second mode of operation nonrequested user data are retrieved from the recording medium and placed into a buffer in anticipation of a future request for the nonrequested user data, and wherein during the ~~nonlocal~~ first mode of operation said nonrequested user data are not retrieved from the recording medium and are not placed into the buffer.

10. (previously presented) The block data storage device of claim 9, wherein the means for switching operates to compare a selected data sector address of a most recently issued read command to data sector addresses associated with the non-sequential data read commands issued by the host.

11. (currently amended) The block data storage device of claim 9, wherein the means for switching further operates to switch from the ~~local~~ second mode of operation to the ~~nonlocal~~ first mode of operation.

12. (previously presented) The block data storage device of claim 9, wherein the means for switching comprises an interface circuit comprising a programmable controller.

13. (currently amended) A method for transferring data between a host device and a block data storage device having a first memory space and a second memory space, the

second memory space storing user data in a plurality of data sectors each having an associated data sector address, the method comprising:

providing a most recent read command to request user data from a selected data sector having a selected data sector address on a storage medium;

comparing the selected data sector address to data sector ~~addresses~~ address ranges associated with a ~~plurality of recent non-sequential~~ sequence of recently received read commands, each said range being non-sequential with respect to the previous range in said sequence; and

switching from a ~~nonlocal~~ mode of operation to a ~~local~~ second mode of operation when the selected data sector address overlaps at least one of the data sector addresses associated with the ~~plurality of recent non-sequential~~ sequence of read commands, wherein during the ~~local~~ second mode of operation, nonrequested user data are retrieved from the storage medium in anticipation of a future request for the nonrequested user data, and wherein during the ~~nonlocal~~ first mode of operation said nonrequested user data are not retrieved.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the comparing step comprises generating a read command history table comprising a range of data sector addresses associated with each of a plurality of n recently received read commands.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the switching step comprises switching from the ~~nonlocal~~ first mode to the ~~local~~ second mode of operation

when a data sector address associated with the most recent read command falls within at least a selected one of the ranges of data sector addresses of the read command history table.

16.(currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the switching step further comprises switching from the ~~local~~ second mode to the ~~nonlocal~~ first mode of operation in relation to the proximity of the data sector address of the most recently received read command to the data sector addresses of previously received read commands.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the comparing step comprises generating a read command history table comprising a range of data sector addresses associated with each of a plurality of n recently received read commands, and wherein the interface circuit switches from the ~~local~~ second mode to the ~~nonlocal~~ first-mode of operation when a plurality of m consecutive read commands are received in turn having associated data sector addresses which do not fall within at least a selected one of the ranges of data sector addresses of the read command history table.

18. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the block data storage device comprises a disc drive and the recordable medium comprises a rigid magnetic recording disc.